

# MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WORLDWIDE TREATMENT  
OF CURRENT ISSUES

Kissinger Latin America Trip - II

No. 14

February 20, 1976

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## Summary

Media in many countries closely followed Secretary Kissinger's course from Caracas to Lima to Brasilia.

Latin American comment, which had been grudging and skeptical in advance, became increasingly receptive. The improved press mood was in part due to the Secretary's statements and to the proposal of a U.S.-Brazil agreement giving each the right to prior consultation on decisions of global importance.

For example, Brazil's Folha de Sao Paulo said "good winds have brought Secretary Kissinger and a pleasant surprise for Brazilians." However, Jornal de Brasilia carried the view that "Kissinger sees nothing against Brazil's being promoted, esteemed and exalted so long as it limits itself to Latin America..."

In Argentina, La Prensa of Buenos Aires called the agreement "unprecedented for Latin America" and La Nacion said it was "extraordinary."

The six-point program on Hemisphere policy Dr. Kissinger announced in Caracas produced a favorable upturn in the Venezuelan press. However, Clarín of Buenos Aires criticized his support of SELA as "evidence of an alarming propensity" of the U.S. "to take the wrong approach to Latin American problems..."

A shift from a negative to a positive press occurred in Lima following the Secretary's announcement there of U.S. acceptance of a nonaligned Peru. Several papers ran similar headlines proclaiming that "Kissinger Reaffirms His Country Understands and Respects Objectives of Peruvian Revolution."

Comment in other areas was sparse. Today's London Financial Times ran a correspondent's report that "the implication" of the U.S.-Brazil agreement "is that the U.S. wants Brazil as a firm partner within the West."

Radio Moscow quoted a Mexican paper on U.S. "exploitation" of Latin America. Radio Havana said the "new dialogue" was "dead and buried."

FIGARO LA LIBRE BELGI  
CORRIERE DELLA SERA DAGENS  
The Daily Telegraph

Worldwide Treatment of Current Issues  
is published by the U.S. Information Agency  
for official use only.

Tel.: 632-4936

Western Europe, p. 7

Communist Countries, p. 11

L A T I N   A M E R I C A

B R A Z I L

"Classifies Brazil Among the World Powers"

The arrival of Secretary Kissinger in Brasilia was a major front-page story in all Brazilian newspapers. TV and radio gave the official events surrounding his visit prominent coverage.

An editorial commentator in liberal Folha de Sao Paulo declared today:

"Good winds have brought Secretary of State Kissinger and a pleasant surprise for the Brazilians. The U.S. has decided to classify Brazil among the world powers on a level with Japan... This is most satisfying to the Foreign Ministry and to those defending Brazil's independent positions in Angola and the Middle East... Furthermore, Kissinger's own statement that 'Brazil makes its own decisions on the world scene' precludes Washington pressure...

"The U.S. is aware that Brazil stands on its own feet. Kissinger's attitude reveals a new U.S. position with regard to Brazil."

An economics writer for the paper said, "Trade relations between Brazil and the U.S. should reflect mature reciprocity, no captive markets nor influence areas, no mixing coffee with the 200-mile sea limit, nuclear plants with detente, nor U.S. trade act with our U.N. vote" or recognition of Angola.

"Doubt U.S. Sees Global Role for Brazil"

A less optimistic view on U.S. attitudes on Brazil was expressed today by Leocadio Guimaraes in liberal Jornal de Brasilia. He wrote: "I have reason to believe that the U.S. does not accept Brazil's self-evaluation as a power and thus a qualified partner in decision-making discussions about global problems not affecting it directly....Kissinger sees nothing against Brazil's being promoted, esteemed and exalted so long as it limits itself to Latin America..."

"Kissinger Does Not Discuss the Essential"

Conservative Correio Braziliense of Brasilia headlined: "Kissinger Emphasizes the Obvious but Does Not Discuss the Essential." It said that while the Secretary had "paternalistically admitted...all Brazilian claims toward a more active role in the international community...he tried to relegate trade problems to a secondary level" and, avoiding specifics, "departed into global issues..."

"Trip Is Really a Visit to Brazil"

Independent conservative O Estado de Sao Paulo made a veiled but recognizable criticism of Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira for hinting that Brazil might seek other alternatives or "change allegiances."

It said that since Brazilians were "conscious of being an emerging power, we have the right and duty to exert our regional responsibilities for the sake of order in Latin America and for the maintenance of the Hemisphere's traditional principles...We have the right to know U.S. contingency plans for a new Cuban adventure in Latin America just as we have the duty to inform our ally of any contingency plans we have..."

"Brazil Needs Loans From U.S. or Elsewhere"

The paper's chief editor, Oliveiros Ferreira, wrote yesterday that the Brazilian Government believes "it can convince Kissinger that it can no longer be neglected by the U.S. and hopes that he will be able to persuade the U.S. Executive and Congress to give Brazil substantial loans at favorable terms which it needs to deal with its foreign debt. Only in this way can Brazil be prevented from looking to other countries for support..."

PERU

"Recognizes Peru's Third-World Leadership"

Government-controlled media in Lima were positive today about Secretary Kissinger's visit and meetings. Prominent front-paging, multiple photos, verbatim reproduction of texts and detailed news coverage were usual.

La Prensa devoted most of page one to his meeting with President Morales Bermudez, displaying a two-column photograph of their first encounter and headlining: "Kissinger Reaffirms His Country Understands and Respects Objectives of Peruvian Revolution." Another headline inside the paper read: "Cordial Discussion in Government House Lasts 50 Minutes."

Sample headlines in other papers were: "Kissinger Recognizes Peruvian Leadership in Third World" and "Kissinger: We Respect Peru."

In a text released to the press when the Secretary departed Lima, Foreign Minister de la Flor said: "I am certain that this visit has had positive results...I believe that it has enabled Dr. Kissinger to perceive the Peruvian reality... that it will help us to overcome our differences and produce a closer relationship..."

VENEZUELA

Upturn in News Treatment

An upturn in the attitude of Venezuela's media following the Secretary's visit to that country continued today. Wide coverage of the tour was maintained in major papers.

Business-oriented El Universal headlined: "U.S. to Place Brazil on Level With Japan." A subhead read: "Kissinger Warns Lima Military Regime That Flexibility of Its Foreign Policy Is Limited by Participation in Nonaligned Nations Bloc." The paper reported that the New York Times had titled its editorial on the visit: "Caracas--A Good Beginning."

"Offered to End Discriminatory Treaty"

Independent El Nacional headlined today: "Kissinger Recognizes Brazil as a New World Power and the Most Important in Latin America." The paper also quoted the head on the New York Times editorial.

On Wednesday, El Universal said Secretary Kissinger "offered to try to eliminate the discriminatory treaty which harms our country's trade. He said the U.S. is prepared to make a major effort to help Latin America....He denied proposing that Venezuela lower its oil prices as Iran has done" and that "American aid to developing countries would be conditioned on the support those countries give the U.S. in international forums..."

Also on Wednesday, the English-language Daily Journal described the trip as a "lightning visit but full of impact" and said, "We have a right to expect big things in the future..."

ARGENTINA

"Unprecedented Agreement With Brazil"

Newspapers in Buenos Aires today gave heavy inside play to the Secretary's tour.

Conservative La Prensa headlined a page-three UPI story: "Kissinger Mission Begins in Brazil." It described as "unprecedented for Latin America" the agreement to be signed by Brazil and the U.S. for mutual consultation on world political matters, technology transfer and trade. The paper quoted "a high official traveling with the Secretary" as indicating that Washington considers that Brazil is "rapidly leaving the developing stage and is very near to reaching full development....The U.S. official recalled that Japan is the only other country in the world with which the U.S. has a similar agreement."

Conservative La Nacion headlined on page two: "Brazil's Extraordinary Agreement" and followed it with an account similar to La Prensa's.

The paper also ran an Agence France-Presse account of the Peruvian Foreign Minister's "categorical statement" that the results of the Kissinger visit were "positive."

"An Alliance Similar to NATO? "

Financial El Cronista Comercial suggested that the Brazil meetings might center on Brazil's balance of trade and the "possibility that Brazil may agree on the installation of U.S. military bases on Fernando de Noronha Island and the northeast coastline." It said reports were circulating that the U.S. "intends to promote an alliance similar to NATO in this Hemisphere."

"Support of SELA a Wrong Approach"

Nationalistic Clarín yesterday discussed the six-point program presented by the Secretary in Caracas. The paper saw "few novelties" in it and was most critical of the "official U.S. blessing on SELA...whose repeated failure it is unnecessary to emphasize..." Clarín saw this support as "evidence of an alarming propensity to take the wrong approach to Latin American problems" and classified it as an "attempt to revive an experience which the reality of this Continent has condemned."

As to all but one of the other points, the paper characterized them as "merely commonplace" and "without greater effect on Continental relations..."

What the paper heartily approved was "recognition that the more industrialized Latin American nations do not need simple aid but support and capital in their efforts to incorporate themselves into the world economy..." The central "problem of overcoming underdevelopment," it said, "requires an investment effort oriented toward establishment of basic industries. Since national capital is inadequate for this, supplementary foreign contribution becomes indispensable."

COLOMBIA

"Collaboration With the U. S. Is Necessary"

Conservative El Colombiano of Medellin commented yesterday:

"Despite the declining U.S. image in Latin America during recent years, the Kissinger visit will attempt to put things in better perspective. The purpose of the Secretary's visit is to ... re-establish the ties of friendship and cooperation with the six Latin American countries he will visit... In spite of whatever fears and misunderstandings they may have, the Latin American nations know very well that a policy of collaboration with the U.S. is a necessary base for the economic development of our peoples and for a better future..."

WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

"U. S. Wants Brazil as a Firm Partner"

Today's independent Financial Times carried the report of correspondent David White from Brasilia that "an important agreement under which the U. S. will consult with the Brazilian Government on economic and political issues of bilateral and international interest will be signed here on Saturday by Dr. Kissinger....According to senior U. S. sources, the agreement...for the first time affords such top-table status to a Latin American country...

"The implication...is that the U. S. wants Brazil as a firm partner within the West. This would imply a different direction from the increasingly third world line which Brazil has been taking..."

"Aim to Prevent Unity Against the U. S. "

Yesterday the liberal Guardian ran the view of correspondent Richard Gott that "Dr. Kissinger...has not so far impressed his hosts with what he has to offer..."

"In so far as Dr. Kissinger has any specific aim, it is to drive a wedge between the various Latin American countries in a renewed attempt to ensure that they do not unite against the U. S. "

WEST GERMANY

"Washington Needs a More Differentiated Dialogue"

Leading West German business daily Handelsblatt of Duesseldorf judged today that "Kissinger's six-point program for Latin America...hardly will make history..."

"His call for intensified efforts and intensified cooperation in regional development programs is an appeal to his own address which, in this general form, can hardly be expected to make a lasting impression.

"Kissinger's trip was too often postponed to become a milestone for Washington's North-South course.... Washington will have to seek a more differentiated dialogue. Short-range foreign policy considerations or identification with the interests of big American companies operating south of the Rio Grande will have to take a back seat.

"Kissinger certainly is not the ideal partner for discussing such subjects, but Washington's foreign policy strategy can no longer be tailored to his term in office..."

#### FRANCE

##### "Peru May Seek Leading Third-World Role"

Intellectual-left Le Monde of Paris today carried a report from Peru that "since the arrival in power in October 1968 of the military 'revolutionaries,' Washington-Lima relations have been difficult.... But today it is a nation in a difficult economic situation that receives the Secretary of State...

"Because of these difficulties, Lima may be tempted to practice a vigorous foreign policy seeking to play a leading role among the countries of the third world.

"But the American Secretary of State... has not failed to point out that some moderation of Lima's foreign policy would facilitate greater understanding on Washington's part of Peru's financial difficulties."

## ITALY

### Scant Comment

The Kissinger trip was reported in Italian media but there was little comment.

Socialist Avanti of Rome remarked today, "In Lima, too, Secretary Kissinger has found much hostility among the people."

Pro-Communist Paese Sera asserted that "beyond compliments, the American-Peruvian meetings brought no changes. If we may summarize them in one word, relations between the two states have deteriorated."

## BELGIUM

### "U. S. Still Shows Little Interest in Real Problems"

Independent De Standaard of Brussels wrote yesterday, "Despite projects like the 'Alliance for Progress' and sporadic declarations of intention, the rich uncle that Washington is continues to show little interest in the real problems which his less advantaged family members are struggling with.... The fact that Mr. Kissinger is now on a tour of six Latin American countries is due in the first place to the Latin American coloring which Angolan developments... have taken as a result of the active role which Cuba has played in the MPLA victory....

"Kissinger will want to find out to what extent the family members in the south are planning to adopt a more independent stance from the U. S. on the world scene. Except for this, few concrete results are to be expected from his trip even though there are enough bones of contention."

## AUSTRIA

### "Cannot Win Friends With Threats"

Vienna's independent Kurier wrote Wednesday, "Above all, the Latin Americans want a 'dialogue among equals' with Washington. They feel that in their relations with Washington they have too often been the givers instead of the takers. Unless Henry Kissinger can offer some economic concessions, he... will find it hard to convince his hosts of Washington's good will. One cannot win new friends by means of threats."

SPAIN

"No Illusions About Solutions"

Independent middle-of-the-road Vanguardia of Barcelona asserted that "contacts between Kissinger and the neighboring American countries have been considerably set back the last few years in the face of more urgent problems in the Middle East... We have no illusions that the Kissinger trip will solve the many very difficult problems extant between the U.S. and Ibero-America."

PORTUGAL

"U.S. No Longer Disdainful"

Lisbon's O Seculo stated today that "there must be some in Latin America who think the continued postponements of the Kissinger trip were a proof of U.S. disinterest or disdain for the other Hemisphere nations. This, if formerly true, ceased being the case some time ago..."

E A S T A S I A

PHILIPPINES

Manila television stations led today with the Kissinger Latin American trip, citing the Secretary as warning Peru against joining the nonaligned bloc.

THAILAND

"Effort to Counter Soviet Expansionism"

Chinese-language Hsing Hsian Jit Pao of Bangkok said today that Mr. Kissinger's Latin American trip reflects Washington's "increased interest" in South America

and the "growing importance" of Latin American countries in the international community, but that the mission "will not be easy." It added:

"These new diplomatic activities in Latin America by Mr. Kissinger following U. S. frustrations in Indochina and Angola mean that the U. S. wants to take the initiative again in international affairs and will not tolerate the current unstable situation created by the Soviet Union. Instead, the U. S. will try to counter Soviet expansionist actions with strong measures."

## A F R I C A

### ZAIRE

#### "America's Game Preserve"

Kinshasa's Elima remarked Wednesday, "America has always considered South America a game preserve, refusing to tolerate any intrusion there."

The paper maintained that Mr. Kissinger's current trip to Latin America would focus on American warnings against possible Cuban attempts to export its revolution, and growing South American nationalism.

## C O M M U N I S T M E D I A

### SOVIET UNION

#### Moscow Cites Mexican Paper on U. S. "Exploitation"

Radio Moscow's domestic service yesterday quoted Excelsior of Mexico City as saying that for the U. S., "Latin America has always been nothing but an

object of exploitation and shameless rapine of its natural resources, which explains the hostility with which Latin Americans receive the Secretary of State. It also explains the measures that were taken to safeguard his security in Venezuela, where 20,000 policemen were mobilized to look after him. This is not only a clear attitude of Latin Americans toward the visit of the Secretary of State, but above all, toward the traditional policy of the U.S."

CUBA

"New Dialogue Dead and Buried"

Radio Havana said yesterday that Dr. Kissinger's "new dialogue" with Latin America was "dead and buried, and all the Yankee Secretary of State's efforts to revive it will be of no avail."